

IB. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 1-27 without prejudice to renewal.

Please enter new claims 28-39, as shown below.

28. (New) A method of producing a porous sheet, the method comprising:
directing laser energy onto an entrance surface of a sheet and continuing to direct the energy until the laser has created a pore having an entrance aperture and an exit aperture having a pore entrance aperture size and a pore exit aperture size, wherein the ratio of pore entrance aperture size to pore exit aperture size is at least about 10:1, and repeating the directing a plurality of times, creating pores positioned at a distance of about 30 to about 70 micrometers apart, creating a porous sheet with a pore density of at least about 100 pores per square millimeter.
29. (New) A method of making an aerosol delivery device, comprising producing a sheet having a plurality of pores, wherein each of said pores has an entrance aperture size and an exit aperture size, and wherein the ratio of said entrance aperture size to said exit aperture size is at least about 10:1; and
incorporating the sheet into an aerosol delivery device.
30. (New) The method of claim 29 wherein the pore is fabricated using a laser.
31. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the repeating is carried out by repositioning the laser energy for each directing step.
32. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the repeating is carried out by repositioning the sheet for each directing step.
33. (New) The method of claim 28 or claim 29, wherein the pore is formed by a process selected from the group consisting of a multi-step process, a grayscale process, and a dithering process, wherein the sheet is comprised of a polymeric organic material, and wherein the sheet has a thickness in a range of from about 10 microns to about 100 microns.

34. (New) The method of claim 28 or claim 29, wherein the laser source is a UV excimer laser having a wavelength of from about 150 nm to about 360 nm.

35. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the excimer energy density is from about 300 to about 800 mJ/cm².

36. (New) The method of claim 28 or claim 29, wherein the sheet comprises a material selected from the group consisting of polycarbonates, polyimides, polyethers, polyether imides, polyethylene and polyesters.

37. (New) The method of claim 28 or claim 29, wherein the sheet is rigid.

38. (New) The method of claim 28 or claim 29, wherein the pores are tapered in configuration, gradually narrowing from the entrance aperture to the exit aperture.

39. (New) The method of claim 28 or claim 29, wherein each of the pores comprises two or more pore steps, each pore step having a pore step entrance aperture size and a pore step exit aperture size, wherein the entrance aperture size of each successive pore step from the entrance side to the exit side of the membrane is about 20 to about 90% of the exit aperture size of the preceding, entrance-proximal, pore step.